AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A thin-film coated toner comprising:

a powder toner, with a softening temperature ranging from 50 to 150°C; and

a surface of the powder toner coated substantially continuously with a thin film comprising a urea-base thermosetting resin, wherein an average film thickness of the thin film is 0.005 to 1μm and said powder toner is a ground toner;

(i) wherein the urea-base resin is formed by resinifying a urea-base resin precursor mixture which consists essentially of at least either one of a urea and a urea derivative and at least either one of a formaldehyde and formaldehyde derivative on the surface of the powder toner, while avoiding fusing the powder toner, and

(ii) wherein the thin-film coated toner is shaped by heating in a temperature range to fuse the powder toner and that causes no thermal breakage of the thermosetting resin to provide 70 percent by mass or more thin-film coated toner particles with ~~wherein the toner is defined by~~ a [[true]] sphericity (DSF) of 0.85 or more according to the following formula ~~I of 0.85 or more~~;

$$DSF = m/M \qquad [[I]]$$

wherein m represents a minimum diameter of a projection drawing of the toner and M represents a maximum diameter of the projection drawing of the same.

2. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein said powder toner has a volume average particle size, before being coated, of 0.1 μm to 20 μm.

15. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is 15 μm or less.

16. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is 10 μm or less.

17. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 0.5 μm.

18. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 14, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 1.0 μm.

19. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein said thin-film coated toner has volume average particle size of 0.1 to 20 μm.

20. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is 15 μm or less.

21. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is 10 μm or less.

22. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 0.5 μm.

23. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 19, wherein said volume average particle size is at least 1.0 μm.

24. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein said thin film has an average thickness of 0.01 μm or more.

25. (Previously Presented) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 24, wherein said thin film has an average thickness of 0.02 μm or more.

26. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 1, wherein the heat shaping occurs in the temperature range of 35°C to 95°C.

27. (New) The thin-film coated toner according to claim 26, wherein the heat shaping occurs in the temperature range of 45°C to 70°C.